

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been added to recite a hardness range with a lower limit based on the disclosure of Table 2 in the present specification (the upper limit is the same as in claim 1).

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections

In response to the art rejections, Applicants initially request that the Examiner reconsider the arguments of record, particularly with respect to the Si range.

Moreover, with respect to newly added claim 16, Applicant notes that this claim recites hardness range between 462 HB and 530 HB.

In contrast, paragraphs [0024] and [0025] of the translation of Jiro indicate that the rate of weld cracking increases rapidly at an HB value of 460.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Jiro teaches away from the presently recited range of 462 HB to 530 HB, and claim 16 is patentable for this additional reason.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/509,103

Attorney Docket No.: Q83621

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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